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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT(S): Burgess *et al.*

SERIAL NO.: 09/730,617

EXAMINER: Wegert, Sandra L.

FILING DATE: December 5, 2000

ART UNIT: 1647

FOR: HUMAN NEUROMEDIN PROTEIN (as amended herein)

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER

37 CFR § 1.111 TO OFFICE ACTION MAILED SEPTEMBER 18, 2002

This paper is filed in response to the Office Action, mailed September 18, 2002, in the above-referenced application. This response is due on or before December 18, 2002.

Please amend the above-referenced application as follows and consider the remarks below.

AMENDMENTS

In the Title:

Please replace the title with the following:

HUMAN NEUROMEDIN PROTEIN

In the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 11, with the following:

The NOVNEUR protein disclosed has substantial homology to both human neuromedin B-32 precursor and rat neuromedin B precursor (*see* Figure 5). NOVNEUR is 88% identical to human neuromedin B precursor at the amino acid level, over residues 6 to 112 of SEQ ID NO: 4. NOVNEUR shares the bombesin-like peptide family consensus sequence, W-A-x-G-[SH]-[LF]-M (where positions 5 and 6 are His-Phe in NMB, ranatensin, and NOVNEUR (*see* residues 40-46 of SEQ ID NO: 4) shared by all putative members of this family (*see* PFAM database at sanger.ac.uk website. The NOVNEUR polypeptide of the invention is more identical (88%) to human NMB at the amino acid level than the nearest family member, *R. Norvegicus* (rat) NMB precursor (71% over 114 amino acids)(*see* UniGene database, ncbi.nih.gov/UniGene website).